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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CHILDREN'S FOSTER CARE
REVIEW BOARD SYSTEM
OF THE
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

(Covering Period July 1, 1982 through June 30, 1983)

Children's Foster Care Review Board System
2221 Devine Street Suite 418
Columbia, South Carolina 29205

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

The Honorable Richard W. Riley, Governor
and Members of the General Assembly

I am pleased to report herein the activities of the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System for the fiscal year 1982-83.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Chappell". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Barbara Chappell, Director

September, 1983

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

In South Carolina during the years 1970 through 1974, six major private organizations spearheaded a growing community interest in obtaining permanent homes for children in foster care. As a result of the activities of these groups, the State Legislature passed bills setting up three major child welfare programs for 1) broader involuntary termination of parental rights, 2) a statewide foster care review board system and 3) subsidized adoption. To ensure implementation, the Governor established an Office of Child Advocacy.

The six major organizations were: The American Civil Liberties Union, the South Carolina Council for Human Rights, the South Carolina League of Women Voters, the Midlands Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, the South Carolina Youth Workers Association and Helping Hands of Aiken County. Child psychiatrists, child psychologists, social work professors, law professors and various church leaders also participated as private citizens to help give direction to the project.

These organizations and individuals worked together to research and document the state of abused, neglected, abandoned and dependent children in cooperation with Representative Carolyn Frederick, Vice Chairperson of the General Assembly's Study Committee on Legal and Legislative Matters Pertaining to Children. These studies showed the following problems to exist:

1. Seventy-six percent (76%) of the children in the Department of Social Services foster care program would not return home nor be adopted under the present system. Services were not provided to the parents to facilitate return home. Also, no efforts were made to free the children for adoption under the abandonment statute although the children were eligible for such action.
2. In seventeen institutions (formerly known as orphanages and all being private except three), forty-three percent (43%) of the children were placed there by the Department of Social Services and fifty-seven percent (57%)

were placed by some other party. Twenty-five percent (25%) to fifty percent (50%) of the children in these institutions were eligible for adoption under the abandonment statute but all seventeen institutions stated that adoption was not one of their services. Most of them also offered no services to families to enable return of the children home.

3. Forty-three percent (43%) of the children in foster care had been in two or more foster placements and eighteen percent (18%) had been in three or more.
4. No method existed for keeping track of children in foster care. The courts expressed concern about children being lost in the system. Even when children were freed for adoption, the courts had no way of knowing if the children had been adopted.
5. Getting children out of foster care into permanent families not only saves children but tax dollars. It cost \$2,000 per year to keep one child in foster care. (It is now estimated to be \$3,500 per year per child.)

As a result of these studies and the public interest they generated, a statewide foster care review board system was legislated by the 1974 General Assembly. The system was devised mainly by Representative Carolyn Frederick and Barbara Chappell, the current director of the Children's Foster Care Review Board System.

In March 1975, Governor James Edwards, by executive order, established the Office of Child Advocacy as a division of the Office of the Governor. The funding was shared by the state and a private foundation, the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation of New York City. The executive order charged the Office of Child Advocacy with the responsibility of acting as ombudsman on behalf of the abused, neglected, abandoned and dependent children of the state, but the primary purpose was to establish and coordinate the Children's Foster Care Review Board System.

The Governor's executive assistants set June 20, 1977, as the

expiration date for the Office of Child Advocacy. Private monies which funded the office were due to expire by that date. Also by that date, the review board system had its own budget as authorized by statute and had been determined to be a separate state agency. The Governor's executive assistants believed that the Office had accomplished its mission by having implemented the review board system.

The State Auditor's Office and the Governor's Office advised transferring the Office of Child Advocacy staff, the Director and the Administrative Assistant, to the review board system because they served as the administrative unit of the review board system and supervised the review board system staff. The transfer was approved by the General Assembly in the '77-'78 budgetary process.

From July 1977 through July 1980, the Office of Child Advocacy existed as a program of the Children's Foster Care Review Board System. It conducted an ombudsman program for children in general and a training program for hospitals and other organizations upon request in the prevention as well as identification of child abuse and neglect. In 1980, the General Assembly returned the function of the Office of Child Advocacy program to the Governor's Office.

The Children's Foster Care Review Board System is currently comprised of a staff of twelve, serving twenty-nine review boards across the state. The Review Board System reviews approximately 3,000 children in public and private agencies and institutions twice annually, statistically evaluates the state of foster care in South Carolina and makes recommendations to the General Assembly and child caring agencies as outlined in the review board statute.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THE AGENCY

Section 20-7-2380 through 2430 of the South Carolina Children's Code creates the Children's Foster Care Review Board System and establishes the agency to administer case review in accordance with the provisions of Section 20-7-1630, as follows:

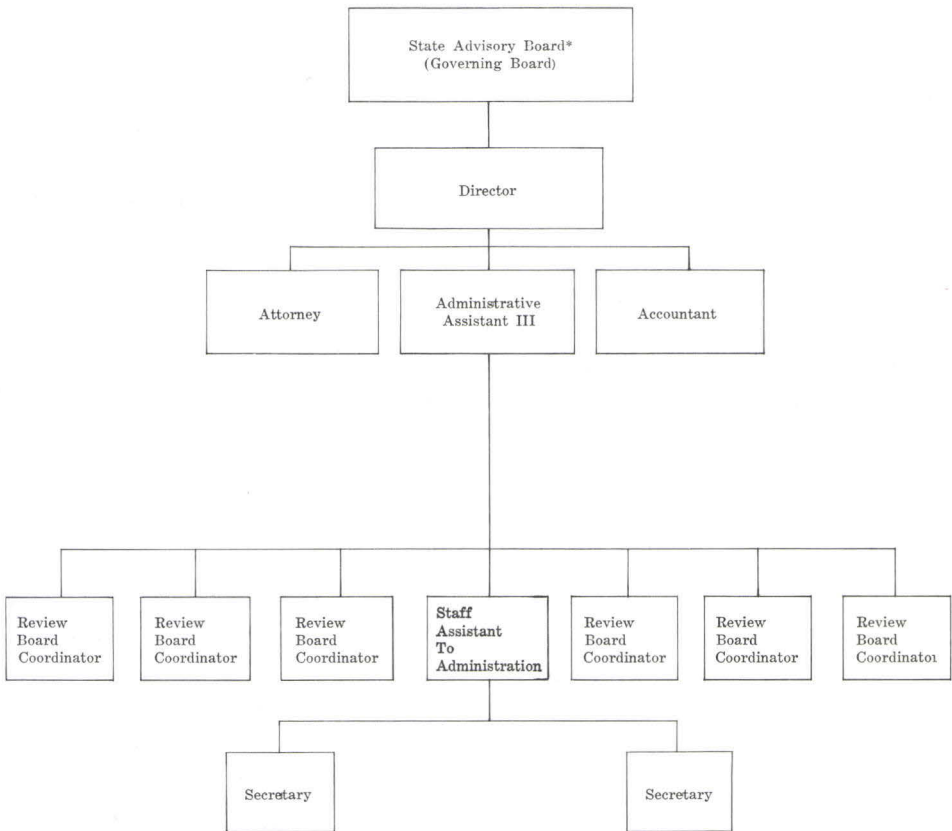
1. To review every six months cases of children who have resided in public or private foster care for a period of more than six months to determine what efforts have been made by the supervising agency or child caring institution to acquire a permanent home for such child.
2. To encourage and facilitate the return of all such children to their natural parents or, upon a determination that such return is not in the best interest of the child, to initiate such procedures pursuant to law as would make the child eligible for adoption or direct the appropriate agency to take such action followed by a maximum effort to place the child adoptively.
3. To promote and encourage all agencies and institutions involved in placing children in foster care to place children with persons both suitable and eligible as adoptive parents.
4. To advise foster parents of their right to petition the appropriate court for termination of parental rights and the right of adoption for any child who has been in their care for a period of more than six months and to encourage such foster parents to initiate such proceedings in an appropriate case.
5. To direct a child-caring institution or agency and exert all possible efforts to make arrangements for permanent foster care or guardianship for children for whom return to natural parents or adoption is determined unfeasible or impossible.
6. To report to the State Office of the Department of Social Services and other adoptive or foster care agencies and institutions deficiencies in such agencies' efforts to secure

permanent homes for children discovered in the board's review of such cases as provided for in item (1) of this section.

After having received a hearing before the board, if a child-caring institution or agency does not plan to comply with the review board decision relating to permanent placement of a child in its care, such child-caring institution or agency shall notify the local review board within twenty-one days after receipt of the decision.

Section 20-7-2390 of the South Carolina Children's Code requires the State Advisory Board to review and coordinate the activities of the local review boards and make recommendations to the General Assembly with regard to foster care policies, procedures and deficiencies of public and private agencies which arrange for foster care of children. The Advisory Board is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations relating to the function and procedures of local review boards in accordance with the policies established for such boards as provided for in the applicable sections of the Children's Code.

CHILDREN'S FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD SYSTEM



*The State Advisory Board is comprised of the chairpersons of the 29 local review boards.

STAFF

Barbara Chappell Director

Denise Ruff Administrative
Assistant

William Smith Staff Attorney

Linda Pollard Staff Assistant to the
Administration

Wilhelmina Rhodarmer Agency Accountant

Hanna Buford Coordinator to the
Local Review Boards

Debra Moore Coordinator to the
Local Review Boards

Priscilla McLaughlin Coordinator to the
Local Review Boards

Virginia Smith Coordination to the
Local Review Boards

Mary Jackson Secretary to the
Local Review Boards

****There are currently three unfilled positions.**

I. State Advisory Board

The State Advisory Board consists of the chairpersons of the twenty-nine local review boards, who are appointed by the Governor. The Board is responsible for promulgating rules and regulations relating to the functions and procedures of local review boards and all issues related to governance of the Children's Foster Care Review Board System. It is responsible for making recommendations to the General Assembly with regard to foster care policies and procedures of public and private agencies/institutions which arrange for foster care for children. The Advisory Board is the policy-making and governing authority of the Children's Foster Care Review Board System, appoints the Director and is responsible for seeing that all children in foster care are reviewed by the local boards according to statute.

Advisory Board Members:

Rev. A. L. Brodie, Jr., Chairman Columbia

Board 1A - Ms. Linda Wright, Social Worker, Summerville

Board 1B - Ms. Jackie Wylie-Brunson, Nurse, St. Matthews

Board 2A - Rev. A. L. Brodie, Jr., Chaplain at Willow Lane School, Aiken

Board 3A - Ms. Lynne H. Bozard, Homemaker, Manning

Board 4A - Ms. W. A. Brigman, Homemaker, Blenheim

Board 5A - Ms. Dorothy Harmon, Social Work Professor, Columbia

Board 5B - Ms. Suzanne Rhodes, Energy Program Manager, Columbia

Board 5C - Ms. Betty Sue Gandy, Social Worker at Hall Institute, Columbia

Board 5D - Mr. Sam Davis, Community Programs Coordinator at Dept. of Mental Retardation, Columbia

Board 6A - Ms. June Stitzel, Nurse, Heath Springs

Board 7A - Mr. James Cheek, Attorney, Wellford

Board 7B - Mr. J. Arthur Bridges, Executive Director of
Community Services, Gaffney

Board 8A - Ms. Margaret Anderson, Social Worker,
Greenwood

Board 8B - Mr. David Abrams, Social Worker at Whitten
Center, Newberry

Board 8C - Ms. Julia Smith, Homemaker, Greenwood

Board 9A - Ms. Alma Wilbanks, Nurse, North Charleston

Board 9B - Ms. Martha Ulmer, Teacher, Charleston

Board 9C - Ms. Christine Jackson, Director of YWCA,
Charleston

Board 10A - Ms. Mary Grace Hull, Homemaker, Westminster

Board 10B - Mr. Dick Helmly, Director of Red Cross,
Pendleton

Board 11A - Ms. Jane Anker, Social Worker at Department
of Mental Health, Columbia

Board 11B - Ms. Katherine Scavens, Teacher, Edgefield

Board 12A - Ms. Joan Harrington, Homemaker, Florence

Board 13A - Dr. Paul Wood, Clinical Psychology Professor,
Central

Board 13B - Mr. Calvin Drayton, Insurance Consultant,
Greenville

Board 13C - Ms. Mack Pazden, Homemaker, Greenville

Board 14A - Ms. Mary Oswald, Teacher, Allendale

Board 15A - Ms. Pat Schooler Homemaker, Georgetown

Board 16A - Ms. June Attaway, Homemaker, Union

II. Administration

The Administrative Unit of the Children's Foster Care Review Board System consists of the Director, Administrative Assistant, Staff Attorney and Accountant. The duties of this unit include:

1. Applying for and administering funds necessary for operation of the review board system.
2. Hiring and supervising review board system employees.
3. Recommending and encouraging implementation of needed policies and procedures on an interim basis between meetings of the State Advisory Board.
4. Supervising the day to day operation of the review board system.
5. Providing training for review board members.
6. Conducting research and advocacy projects designed to improve the services to abused, neglected, abandoned and dependent children.

III. Local Review Boards

There are twenty-nine local review boards, composed of five members each, from the sixteen judicial circuits throughout the state. Board members are appointed by the Governor as recommended by their local legislative delegations.

The review board's five review board coordinators and two secretaries are full time employees of the Children's Foster Review Board System. They provide a full range of secretarial and administrative support services to the review boards. The review board coordinators travel to all review meetings, record case information and board decisions and advisory recommendations, coordinate scheduling of case reviews, see to it that all review board decisions are mailed to the appropriate parties, maintain central files and act as resource persons and consultants to the board they serve. It is also their responsibility to ensure uniform implementation of all official policies and procedures promulgated by the Advisory Board. The two secretaries handle all typing and clerical duties for the review board coordinators.

The functions of the local review boards are outlined in the review board statute. (See page 4.)

PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE AGENCY

Conducting foster care case reviews, as outlined in the statute, is the primary function of the Children's Foster Care Review Board System and is the sole program of the agency.

DOCUMENTS

Manual of Policies and Procedures Relating to the Children's Foster Care Review Board System in South Carolina, (revised November 1980)

A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System Prior to July 1, 1977

A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System prior to January 1, 1978

A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System prior to January 1, 1979

A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System During the 1979 Calendar Year

A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System During the 1980 Calendar Year

A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System During the 1981 Calendar Year

A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System During the 1982 Calendar Year

Progress Report, March 1, 1978

Progress Since Implementation of the Review Board System: 1977-80, 1977-1981, and 1977-82

State Advisory Board Reports to the General Assembly: 1978, 1979, and 1982

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1982 - 1983

Adjusted Appropriations from State Budget \$298,558.00

Expenditures:

One unclassified position 26,153.40

Eleven classified positions 140,022.77

Per Diem to review
board members 25,830.00

Travel reimbursement to staff and
review board members 25,663.43

Contractual Services 13,427.33

Supplies 5,446.88

Fixed charges 17,852.95

Equipment 3,686.57

Employer contributions 29,961.47

TOTAL 288,044.80 288,044.80

Balance at close of Fiscal 1983 \$10,513.20

Special Donations Account

Total contributions

brought forward\$ 2.02

Expenditures -0-

Balance at close of Fiscal 1983\$ 2.02

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

1977 - 1982

	1977 Totals	1982 Totals	Percentage Increase in Number of Children Placed
Children leaving foster care	296 (11% of the children reviewed)	950 (31% of the children reviewed)	221%
Children returned home	140 (5% of the children reviewed)	401 (13% of the children reviewed)	186%
Children freed for adoption	112 (4% of the children reviewed)	353 (12% of the children reviewed)	215%
Children placed in adoptive homes	61 (2% of the children reviewed)	289 (9% of the children reviewed)	373%
Children over 12 placed in adoptive homes	3 (5% of the children placed adoptively)	75 (26% of the children placed adoptively)	2400%

*The average length of time a child spends in foster care has decreased by about 1 year from 1977 to 1982. If the 950 children who left foster care in 1982 had remained in foster care another year, it would have cost the state \$3,325,000 based on a minimum cost of \$3,500 per year per child.

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